

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 32 - 35 and 37 are pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-26, 32-35, 38, and 41-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Haubner et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,459,591 in view of Vollmeyer et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,761,621.

Claims 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Haubner et al., in view of Vollmeyer et al., in further view of Parker, U.S. Patent No. 4,169,264.

Claims 39-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Haubner et al., in view of Vollmeyer et al., in further view of Thomas et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,278,754.

Claims 36-37 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

Applicant strenuously asserts that the rejected claims are patentable over the cited art. Nonetheless, in order to advance prosecution of the instant application, claim 32 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter recited in claim 36. Accordingly, claims 1-31 and 38-46 have been canceled without prejudice. The dependency of claim 37 has been corrected.

Claims 32 - 35 and 38 are believed to be in allowable condition.

Applicant recognizes that the remaining claims can be pursued in a subsequent filing during the pendency of the instant application.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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